

Glenn Ivey Answers to Our Revolution Maryland 2022 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate for Maryland's 4th Congressional District

1. Email: Glenn@Iveyforcongress.com
2. Candidate Name: Glenn Ivey
3. Website: www.GlennIvey.com
4. Best Way to Contact you: (301) 537-1451

5: Our Revolution has endorsed the framework of the Green New Deal, with the twin goals of a transformation to renewable energy and promoting environmental justice and economic equity. Will you support the Green New Deal and any implementing legislation in the upcoming Congress? Describe your vision for moving to renewable energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels. What commitments can you make now to voters, to demand action in Congress where we have seen none for decades? *

As we grapple with the immediate and long-term impacts of global climate change, the United States has the moral obligation to act now. Cutting carbon emissions while clearing the air we breathe and the water we drink aren't just priorities, they are absolute necessities. Punishing criminal polluters, as I have done in the past as State's Attorney, while working in good faith with farmers and business owners is crucial to preserving the health of our environmental future. We can reward environmental stewardship and punish those who break the law without burdening our families. As with health care, clean air, clean water, and access to healthy food are basic human rights.

Increased severe weather events are only one indication of the effects of the changing climate caused by the use of fossil fuels. Wildfires, floods, unprecedented storms, heat waves, and other anomalous events are growing threats, and because of that our nation can no longer continue with the status quo. *Fundamental* changes are required, and it will take a multi-pronged approach that will involve everyone. That is why I support the Green New Deal; we have no time to spare.

The Republicans have demonized with scare tactics and intentional misinformation what the concept of the Green New Deal embodies. The reality is we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, while also addressing societal problems such as economic inequality, racial injustice, and environmental justice. They are all interrelated problems.

Instead of being the cause of losing jobs, the Green New Deal will instead *create* millions of new, good paying jobs. Repeated studies have shown that the impacts of unaddressed climate change will cost the US economy billions of lost dollars and opportunities; it is not only the necessary thing to do, but the Green New Deal will also have wide-ranging economic and cultural benefits, too.

We need to take several common-sense steps. We should move as quickly as possible to having all our nation's electricity come from renewable and zero-emission power sources, and no longer use greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels to generate our electricity. The power grids need to be updated, digitized, and hardened; buildings need to be retrofitted for energy efficiency, and new construction should be mandated to meet high efficiency standards; we need to upgrade our public transportation systems and rails, and move to all-electric vehicles. While doing these things we need to help the transitions required in employment by providing job training, particularly in areas and industries dependent on fossil fuels.

This broad approach will help us reshape how we work, travel, consume, grow our food, and live our lives, all for the better. All of this can be done. The future depends on the success of these efforts.

6: In the face of a lack of Congressional action, and the Supreme Court now revisiting EPA authority, will you join Our Revolution in calling on President Biden to declare a climate emergency to take actions at the executive level? *

There is no question we are facing a climate emergency and an environmental crisis, and each day that decisive and real action is delayed will only make things worse. If executive action is needed because Congress does not act, I support the president declaring a climate emergency. But Executive Orders, as we've seen after the past several administrations have changed, are also easily reversed. Congressional action is much preferable to Executive Orders.

But either way, I fully support giving the EPA the authority to do its job and think that every agency of government should address the crisis in whatever way they can.

Climate change can no longer be disputed; the denial of science that the pandemic exposed and accelerated is a threat to everyone alive and to future generations.

The federal government has the key role in ensuring that greenhouse gas emitters are stopped. Congress should assist the EPA in its task rather than second-guess decisions or proposing limits on agency power (as the last administration did). The damage done to the EPA by the previous administration is being undone by the Biden administration, and the EPA should be given even more mechanisms to stop polluters and implement and enforce greenhouse gas emission limits.

The threat is real and growing worse.

7: Are there policies you would favor to move to more sustainable levels of consumption and less environmentally devastating practices and products? *

Tax credits for use and installation of renewable energy are a powerful tool available to Congress to help fight climate change. The solar investment tax credit has proved successful and should be expanded and improved. We must make a concerted effort to support renewable energy in order to reach the Biden administration's target 28% of U.S. capacity coming from renewable energy by 2030.

Investments in the green energy economy will not only produce good-paying jobs, but it is also the right thing to do.

Congress should expand federal grant programs for local governmental facilities that invest in energy efficiency. By improving the energy efficiency of new and existing facilities, local governments can save money while also reducing their carbon footprint. We need a sustained national effort, and the federal government should aggressively support these efforts by increasing direct grant funding for efficiency upgrades to local government buildings. According to the EPA, public schools spend more on energy than anything else except personnel. Investments in energy efficiency will enable schools to spend money on student's education instead of wasted energy.

8: Besides anthropogenic global warming, what other environmental crises are we facing and how do you propose addressing them? *

Each of the environmental challenges we face are the results of actions taken, or not taken, by people. Clean air, clean water, a clean and safe environment, and access to healthy foods are basic human rights. Society's past behavior has caught up with us.

Each of these problems are part of the whole, and holistic approaches to address them are necessary. A few specific approaches would include investing in renewable energy by utilizing existing waste products. With rising gas costs, we must become less reliant on non-renewable energy. The Chesapeake Bay region, with its high agricultural density, has the potential to use discarded farm materials such as manure and chicken litter for energy production. Renewable energy plants that use animal waste will not only limit the amount of pollutants that reach the bay, it will provide a new source of revenue, jobs, and affordable phosphorus-free fertilizer for our struggling family farms. Congress should pass legislation to enable governments and private industry to come together and fund innovative environmental research to find solutions.

Also, we should address the growing e-waste stream. Electronic waste (e-waste) is the largest growing waste stream in the United States. E-waste consists of things such as old laptops, flatscreen televisions, printers, and smartphones. It often contains hazardous materials that pose a serious environmental risk if not properly disposed of. The first step in addressing the problem is funding public service campaigns to ensure Americans know that e-waste must be recycled. Second, the federal government needs to proactively support e-waste recycling and provide incentives for research and innovation in more efficient disposal technologies.

There are many important climate change programs that are part of the President's proposed Build Back Better legislation. Build Back Better was cut back too much, but even then, it cannot overcome Republican resistance in the Senate. (Yet another reason to support filibuster reform). I am a strong

supporter of the investments contained in the President's proposal which would, if passed, take important steps to address climate change.

9: Will you commit to voting for passage of an increase in the federal minimum wage to at least \$15/hour now (indexed to inflation)? *

Yes, I strongly support raising the federal minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour. The Fight for \$15 started a *decade ago* and has been going on for so long that I support moving over time to a federal minimum wage higher than \$15. Inflation is again a serious factor in our lives, the 2009 \$7.25 federal minimum wage was inadequate then, and \$15 isn't going to be enough now. Countless studies have refuted the claims that a higher minimum wage kills jobs. It's past time to make sure that every worker in America earns a living wage.

10: What is your plan for addressing the homelessness crisis? What are your ideas for addressing the crisis in the cost of housing which has many Americans paying more than half their income for housing? *

The nation needs more affordable residential housing. This is why I am a strong supporter of the President's Build Back Better Act, and its ambitious approach toward housing. There needs to be a multi-pronged approach to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing, including things such as a rehabilitation and commercial-to-residential tax credit and incentives to train and hire more residential construction workers to address the labor shortage of trained workers.

Although stalled in the Senate (another argument for filibuster reform), Build Back Better would be an important step in addressing the need for more housing in the country. Not only would it create millions of good-paying jobs and enable more Americans to join and remain in the labor force, it would also make the single largest and most comprehensive investment in affordable housing in our nation's history. It would enable the construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of more than one million affordable homes, boosting housing supply and reducing price pressures for homeowners.

The proposed legislation also includes one of the largest investments in down payment assistance in history, which would enable hundreds of thousands of first-generation homebuyers to purchase their first home and build wealth. I support a multi-pronged approach to create ways to incentivize and finance more housing units, and will work for this if elected. Among many other benefits and needs, it would increase the opportunity for Americans to purchase a home to access the wealth-building benefits of homeownership.

Homelessness is a complex problem with multiple causes. Part of it is the lack of jobs with a livable wage, part of it is the lack of decent affordable housing, part of it is the lack of substance abuse care and treatment, and part of it is inadequate mental health care and treatment. No single fix is available for individuals without shelter, but we know what will help. More needs to be done.

11: Do you agree that wealth and income inequality are among the most significant problems we face? If so, why do you believe this is happening, and what specific steps would you take to redress this? Would you support changes in tax laws or rate changes? What other policy changes would you advocate for? Please be specific as possible here. *

Income and wealth inequality is a *choice* our country has made. This choice was made by the public policies that the country has implemented, and they can and should be changed. Such excessively uneven economic income and wealth violates the basic tenets of our country, especially the foundational notion of equality of opportunity, and undermines the perception of the legitimacy of our entire system.

Wealth and income inequality is driven by unfair and unwise tax laws that benefit wealthy special interests. A huge percent of all income growth in the past decade went to the wealthiest one percent of Americans. The pandemic has accelerated this disparity.

Congress needs to restructure the tax system so that the wealthiest Americans and big corporations pay their fair share, just like regular hard-working Americans do.

But taxation is an immensely complicated subject that defies simple answers. Changes and tax legislation comes as a package, with trade-offs. No tax can reasonably be discussed in isolation. That said, I believe strongly that our taxes (federal, state, and local) should be as progressive as possible, and perceived by Americans as fair. It is important that all citizens understand and believe that what is being required of them is just. That is not the current situation, and people are understandably and justifiably angry.

A guiding principle I will follow if elected as a member of Congress will be to work to protect middle- and working-class families. Public policy should be equitable, and be seen and understood by the people of the 4th District to be fair and just.

I was and remain unhappy with many of the provisions of the 2017 tax bill that disproportionately benefited the rich and left behind low- and moderate-income Americans. The legislation increased inequality, unwisely reduced tax revenues when the country needed to raise more money and encouraged the gaming of the system and tax avoidance, all of which further undermined the confidence the American people have in the fairness of the tax system. This is wrong, and the American people deserve better.

12: What new or repealed laws or regulations would you impose or reinstate on the investment and commercial banking sectors? *

It is not true that what's good for Wall Street is necessarily good for the economy, or good for everyday working Americans. But, under our broken campaign finance system, Wall Street donors have donated millions of dollars in often unaccountable ways to preserve the current, skewed banking system on Wall Street where the rich get richer, and American workers get left behind.

We've seen massive subsidies, broad deregulation, special tax breaks, and a revolving door between Wall Street and regulators. During the 2008-2009 financial crisis there were no-strings-attached bailouts; the crisis was real, and the Obama administration acted wisely and quickly to successfully avoid another Great Depression, but the individual culprits responsible were never held accountable. That should never happen again.

In 2010 Congress passed the Dodd-Frank banking reform legislation. While it did not go far enough, it was at least a start. But then the Trump administration did whatever it could to cut back and limit controls established by the Dodd-Frank legislation. Outrageously they made every effort to return to "too big to fail" and ignore the lessons from 2008-2009.

In the past generation policy decisions made by Congress and regulators weakened the guardrails that helped ensure that workers' wages grew along with, and comparable to, their productivity. From 1979 to 2020, net productivity of the American worker rose by over 60%, but the hourly pay of the typical worker grew less than a third of that (after adjusting for inflation).

Increases in federal minimum wage stalled, labor law was not adequately enforced against anti-union efforts, deregulation accelerated, and the entire intellectual foundation for anti-trust enforcement shifted, and anti-trust enforcement waned. The result has been a dramatic increase in unjustified economic inequality. Trump had vowed to "do a big number" on the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms, and unfortunately, he succeeded. Incomes stalled, the rich got richer, and American workers are justifiably angry.

13: What steps would you take to protect workers who are trying to organize a union? Do you support the Pro Act? Does it go far enough in your view? If not, what else must we do? *

I am a strong supporter of Representative Bobby Scott's Protecting the Right to Organize Act (Pro Act). It is of the utmost importance that American workers have the right and the means to organize and collectively bargain. I will stand against any Republican efforts to chip away at the NLRA, and I will support any legislation that reaffirms the right to organize, free from employer interference. What happened in Alabama with the Amazon workers should not be allowed to ever happen again.

We need to strengthen unions in this country. I will support legislation that shortens the needless delay in the election process and allows for fair union access to workers. I will support legislation to increase the power of the NLRB to punish employers that violate the rules. The NLRA needs to be strengthened to bring employers into line. I will support legislation that ensures both employers and unions bargain in good faith. Once a union wins recognition, the employer must accept the reality and give a good faith effort to meet the needs of the employees.

Because of the Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*, for public employees I would strongly support the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (H.R.5727) which sets a minimum nationwide standard for collective bargaining rights for public sector workers that all states must adhere to. This includes recognizing employees' labor unions that are freely chosen by a majority of the employees,

and to bargain with them over wages, hours, and conditions. Public service workers are frequently underpaid despite the value they provide. Under the legislation, as long as they meet the minimum standards, States would have wide flexibility to write and administer labor laws that are tailored to their unique needs.

14: Would you support or oppose the Congressional Progressive Caucus' plan to create fairer trade deals? (Read more here: https://progressives.house.gov/_cache/files/d/0/d06e29b1-a19e-48e5-8eba-7ca61b0bba94/D363B2756F3792BAEEC7A33B795604EA.cpc-fair-trade-agenda.pdf) *

I support. Trade deals should be written for the benefit of working Americans, and not for the benefit of large multinational corporations. International trade has benefited countless people throughout the world, but our trade agreements need to have more emphasis on “fair trade” and not just “free trade.”

Trade has lowered consumer prices, but at the too steep cost of shipping millions of good paying American jobs overseas. Too often the costs of recent trade deals have outweighed the benefits, and trade deals have not been beneficial to working Americans overall in the long-run and in the big picture.

America’s free trade agreements are designed to reduce trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas with the goal of that it will lead to lower-priced consumer goods, without concern for the overall costs (as compared to prices). Fair trade, on the other hand, focuses on the working conditions, labor laws, social justice, environment laws and enforcement in *both* countries. There should be a fair and level playing field for American workers. It is wrong when American jobs are shipped overseas where the wages of workers there are paid a fraction of what Americans are paid for the same job here, when those workers there do not have the protections of labor laws, and where the corporations can cut corners.

Government can be a powerful force for good, and regulations can save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone. International trade should not be a race to the bottom, where jobs go where the wages are lowest, labor laws and protections are weakest, and where environmental protections are ignored.

15: What steps do you support to strengthen Social Security and Medicare? *

Social Security is a sacred trust, and a promise made to the American people that must never be broken. I will resist any attempts by Republicans to threaten Social Security in any way. To protect and improve our country’s social safety net is one of the reasons I entered public life.

Any changes to the structure of Social Security would have to be part of a comprehensive, well-studied, transparent, consensus achieved agreement reached only if needed to save Social Security.

I adamantly oppose any attempt to privatize Social Security. This was attempted by George W. Bush in the first year of his second term and was resoundly rejected by the American people. This is a bad idea for many reasons.

16: Will you join in support of Rep. Jayapal's petition effort to end the Trump/Biden program allowing Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to move Medicare enrollees to for-profit Direct Contracting Entities? *

Yes. I support the efforts to convince the Biden administration to undo the Trump-era privatization effort. I oppose any effort to privatize Medicare in any way.

Developed by the Trump administration, the Medicare Direct Contracting program allows commercial insurers and other for-profit companies to manage care for seniors enrolled in Medicare that can occur without the seniors knowing or giving their consent.

17: Do you support single-payer healthcare - Medicare For All? Please explain your answer. *

I support single-payer universal health care, the equivalent of Medicare for All. Despite the successes of the Affordable Care Act, about 30 million Americans remain without health insurance. This is not acceptable.

In Congress, I will work with the Biden-Harris administration to ensure that all Americans have affordable health care. Healthcare is a human right, regardless of socio-economic status. Too many people cannot afford proper healthcare or prescription drugs, while big pharmaceutical companies are raking in profits.

One in four Americans struggle to afford prescription drugs, and that is simply unacceptable. I support President Biden's efforts to lower prescription drug costs. I will fight to lower out-of-pocket costs for seniors, and fight for lower insulin prices so that no one with diabetes is paying more than \$35 a month for their insulin. This should be done without increasing premiums. Medicare should use its size to negotiate drug prices, which will lower costs for seniors and taxpayers.

I support the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act and support a comprehensive and universal paid family leave program that will meet the needs of middle-income workers at a time when they need such support. I am committed to fighting for working families in Congress and that starts with universal health care.

18: Do you support legalizing marijuana? Why or why not? *

Yes. Federal laws concerning marijuana have not kept pace with the rapid changes occurring on the state level across the country. The people of the United States have made their decision on the legalization of cannabis, and it is time for Congress and federal laws to acknowledge that reality and catch up. It is necessary that Congress recognize reality and create a logical and rational legal framework for marijuana laws.

As of this past year, all but four states have some form of legal cannabis ranging from medical cannabis to recreational adult-use cannabis. But currently there is confusion, contradiction, and

inconsistency between federal and state laws. Cannabis use is still against federal law; it is still classified as a dangerous Schedule One illegal drug.

There are five schedules of drugs, administered by the FDA, and created in 1970 by the Controlled Substance Act. Schedule One drugs are considered the most dangerous, with a high potential for abuse and potentially severe psychological or physical dependence, and with no accepted medical use. Absurdly, marijuana is still classified as Schedule One, along with heroin, LSD, ecstasy, and peyote. As a result of this classification, patients who legally use cannabis for medical reasons according to state law are in violation of federal law, as are legal recreational users. Also, if a legal state licensed cannabis dealer uses a bank for their business, it is a violation of federal law.

This is all ridiculous and absurd, and needs to change as soon as possible.

19: The United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of those incarcerated worldwide. Roughly 90% of those in prison have taken plea deals, and even those who get new evidence later are unable to get hearings or convictions overturned. Private prisons further incentivize arrests and incarceration. What steps do you support to reform our Criminal Justice system - police, prosecutors, courts, jails and prisons *

Having served as State's Attorney for Prince George's County I am well familiar with the shortcomings of our judicial system. Changes were needed, and I instituted reforms when in office. I was the first to successfully prosecute cops for excessive force violations. That had not happened before in Prince George's County and I'm proud of the changes we saw as a result.

I worked with the community and pioneered progressive reforms in law enforcement. These included early intervention and prevention programs, reentry reforms, and prosecuting bad actors, both criminals and police officers, who endangered the community's safety. From my office we tackled gang violence head-on and achieved success without resorting to mass incarcerations because I knew we could not jail our way out of these problems.

The need for police reform became clear to many Americans, finally, by the death of George Floyd. Federal funds should be available for police body cameras for every department in the country, and they should be mandatory. This is expensive, but for accountability body cameras need to be as much a part of an officers' uniform as their badge.

Congress should establish a "National Use of Force Standard" to govern police interactions with the communities they serve. Congress should outline acceptable standards, norms, and procedures for police. These standards should emphasize conflict de-escalation rather than the use of force. It should include guidelines for crowd control during large demonstrations, the elimination of the use of military grade equipment and vehicles, training to address racial profiling, implicit bias, and gender discrimination, and teaching how to approach suspects with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities.

Also, a national record of instances of lethal police actions will help us grasp the scale of the problem we face. Currently, we don't know the scale of the problem because we have no reliable and full record of it. The Justice Department should be informed every time police action results in the death or serious injury of an individual, and it should be mandatory instead of voluntary.

In cases where there is new evidence of innocence or prosecutor misconduct, I support a required court hearing.

There should be no privately-owned for-profit prisons. They place incentives in all the wrong places.

I support the release of elderly prisoners with good records. In most cases further incarceration serves no one. I also support more diversionary programs, especially for non-violent offenders, and oppose "stop and frisk;" it should be eliminated everywhere.

20: Our Revolution Maryland has advocated for justice for the human rights attorney Steven Donziger, who is being persecuted by oil and gas 'Goliath' Chevron through the federal court system. See this link for a discussion of the timeline of events in his case:

<https://www.freedonziger.org/timeline-of-the-case>. What steps will you take to rebalance the scales of justice so that 'Davids' like Steven Donziger can bring suit against mega-corporations to seek redress for victims of corporate misconduct, without risking their own freedom? With respect to Donziger, in particular, do you support Congressional hearings and/or Justice Department investigation into possible corruption of process in the Southern District of New York? *

I understand the challenges of David vs. Goliath in the judicial system because I regularly represent people in court who are being prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The imbalance often seems overwhelming. I would support Congressional or court hearings in the case of Steven Donziger.

21: The federal judiciary is largely composed of pro-corporate/anti-consumer and labor judges appointed by Presidents from both parties. We see this in recent bankruptcy decisions allowing profitable corporations to claw back pension funds from employees and retirees. There are also high-profile abuses of bankruptcy protections, such as the 'Texas Two-Step' to shield assets of billionaire owners and Fortune 500 companies from deserving plaintiffs and claimants. What reforms and court oversight would you support to prevent predatory corporations from abusing judicial process to evade responsibility for egregious conduct injuring thousands and even millions of Americans? *

Such pension funds should be shielded from corporate bankruptcy proceedings. That is only fair and reasonable. Workers should not bear the responsibility or pay the cost for the misconduct of corporate leaders.

22: If you support a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in our country today, please set forth your vision briefly. What other reforms to our immigration system would you advocate going forward? *

It will be to the benefit of all Americans when the millions of undocumented people living, working, and participating in our communities are allowed to come out of the shadows, and be offered a path to legalization and eventual citizenship. That's why I strongly support comprehensive, fair, and just immigration reform. It is *long* overdue.

This struggle for reform has been going on unsuccessfully for many years, continually blocked in Congress by Republican opposition. Their opposition is both frustrating and angering.

I strongly support legislation that would allow Dreamers to legalize their immigration status fully and permanently, and to establish a pathway to citizenship. Young people who were brought to the United States as children and raised here are making important contributions to our nation right now. It is the right thing to do, and should be enacted without further delay.

I support cracking down on employers who abuse H-2A and H-2B visas. Historically there has been a need for some seasonal worker visas, but serious abuses have occurred. It is necessary that these types of visas are closely monitored, and the visas are used for what they were intended. The number of H-2A and H-2B visas issued annually is determined by the Department of Labor, and properly run the program serves a purpose. But it should not be used to avoid labor laws or avoid paying American workers fair wages.

23: The United States spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined. That enormous expenditure incentivizes conflict over diplomacy and lobbying by our military-industrial complex to maintain the status quo. In Congress, would you work to reduce our annual military spending? *

Yes. President Eisenhower was correct when he warned our country in his farewell address that, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." Unfortunately, his warning was not heeded, and we are now living with the unwarranted influence of the military-industrial complex.

Expenditures are necessary for the security of the nation, but because of entrenched interests, bureaucracies, and defense contractors, we spend too much, and too much of the military spending is misplaced, unwise, and misallocated. Winston Churchill correctly observed that "Generals are always prepared to fight the last war," and as a result the Pentagon requests, and is appropriated, massive amounts of money to spend on 20th Century weapon systems. The United States should spend much less -- and still be better positioned and prepared than we are currently.

Six months ago, in a report on options for a smaller military budget, the Congressional Budget Office said, "Reducing defense budgets requires some combination of cutting the size of the force, purchasing fewer or less expensive weapons, and reducing the cost to operate and maintain the forces and equipment that remain in service." We need to recognize that the emerging threats in an ever-increasingly digital world are different than last century. The reality also is that climate change is

going to have a profound and as yet unforeseen impact on the county's national defense needs. We should prepare now for massive international population migration caused by climate change, and the continuing threat to our nation's security by emerging pathogens. The threats we face, and will face soon, demand wiser preparation that we are currently doing.

It is necessary to find reasonable ways to do this without continuing the massive unnecessary expenditures the Pentagon is currently spending every year.

If all you have is a hammer, everything will look like a nail.

24: Do you support public financing for every election? Why or why not? *

Yes. Our current system is broken and is not working well. Big money too often skews our elections, and the evolution of dark money since Citizens United has made things even worse. The *appearance* of corruption undermines the legitimacy of our government, and it is not right that public officials and candidates currently must spend so much of their time and effort raising money. Several jurisdictions have implemented successful ways to publicly finance elections with matching funds and limits, and we should find a way to implement one of the successful systems nationally. If one system doesn't work as expected, or has unintended consequences, we should modify it and try a different public financing system. We can and should do better than the current way elections are financed.

25: Do you support or oppose ending the revolving door for elected officials and staffers becoming lobbyists? What will you do about the influence of fossil fuel executives and other industry front-groups on policy-making and elections? *

It is inappropriate to have a revolving door between Capitol Hill and lobbying firms, and I would support strengthening the current restrictions. Ethical behavior should be demanded and mandated, and there should be strong enforcement.

Yes, there is too much unaccountable money sloshing around in politics, dark money hidden and unaccountable. The laws need to be strengthened, and the totally ineffectual Federal Election Commission should be reconceptualized, reconstituted, and given enforcement powers with actual teeth. Also see my previous answer above in support of public financing of elections.

26: Two decades into the 21st Century, intolerance and discrimination are still plaguing us, and now, incredibly to many of us, activists on the right are trying to purge our schools of any books or curriculum which would involve an honest accounting of our troubled history of social, racial and ethnic strife, prejudice and even exploitation and genocide. Can we address disparate treatment and intolerance without openly confronting our troubled history and persistent injustices? Looking at the 2021 election in Virginia, it seems that GOP's main electoral talking point this year will continue to be a refusal to even discuss racial inequities, as well as creating new forms of oppression of women and LGBTQ people. As a society and as progressives, how should we formulate a response to these

political talking points, and going forward to ensure we can equip each generation to discuss difference and discrimination? *

In reaction to the unnecessary deaths of George Floyd and too many others at the hands of the police, the nation is in the midst of an on-going, long-overdue racial reckoning, which fortunately has spread and is now rightly affecting most every institution in America. A reckoning has spread beyond the need to reform law enforcement to other institutions, including education, religion, sports, politics, and others.

Because the nation witnessed too many videos of abusive and criminal police conduct, things finally came to a boil among a majority of Americans, and the anger and frustration has been palpable, understandable, and justified. This reckoning spreading to other institutions in our society is good and necessary, but it has unfortunately generated an angry and frightened push-back.

The nation-wide movements demanding an honest consideration of our nation's past has demanded an honest teaching of history in schools, full rights for the LGBTQ+ community, the need for fundamental police reform, and the recognition and acknowledgment that racial and gender bias and prejudice is ever present in our country.

The best course of action for people of good will and open hearts is honesty. Our nation has historically been one of hope, optimism, and opportunity, and to maintain and honor those values it is important that we openly confront all aspects of our country with honesty. Both good and bad, it is important to be forthright in facing the realities of the past and acknowledge where we have fallen short of our nation's ideals.

To hope to continue to downplay the horrors of slavery is unacceptable, and ultimately short-sighted and self-defeating. One of the strengths of our culture and society is a vigorous free press; sunshine and honesty are how we confront our shortcomings as a society, and make corrections. The same approach is required of all our institutions if they are to be successful: honest, open, and sometimes painful confrontation of our faults and shortcomings so we can confront them, acknowledge them, and correct them. These traits have helped build our nation, and we should respect and honor the results.